(a) whether effort has been made to call in the Chief of ISI from Pakistan after attack on Mumbai;

(b) whether it is a fact that even after conceding it, Pakistan did not act accordingly; and

(c) the purpose to call in the Chief of ISI and the manner in which it would be fulfilled now?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The Pakistan Foreign Office issued a Press Release dated 28 November 2008 which said 'In separate telephone calls today to the Indian Prime Minister, the President and the Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's strong condemnation and indignation on the terrorist attacks in Mumbai and expressed Pakistan's readiness to extend every assistance and cooperation that Government of India may require in investigating these incidents. Director General (ISI) will visit India in this regard'. A similar Press Release was issued by the Pakistan Prime Minister's Office. However, DG, ISPR, Spokesperson of the Pakistan armed forces subsequently announced that no decision had been taken. Government expects that strong action would be taken against those elements, whosoever they may be, responsible for the terrorist attack in Mumbai.

Indo-Iran gas pipeline

1931. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reaction of Government on the media reports that India is not inclined to push through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project but is very keen on Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline;

(b) whether it is a fact that recently the Minister held bilateral talks with Pakistan on TAPI pipeline;

(c) whether it is also a fact that China is eagerly waiting to grab IPI pipeline in view of India not showing keen interest in this pipeline project; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In order to enhance country's energy security, Government is simultaneously pursuing import of natural gas from Iran through IPI gas pipeline project and from Turkmenistan through TAPI gas pipeline project. The Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas had attended the 10th Steering Committee Meeting of the TAPI Project at Islamabad on April 23-24, 2008. During the visit bilateral issues between India and Pakistan pertaining to the IPI Gas Pipeline were also discussed.

(c) and (d) No discussions have been held between India and China on the IPI Gas Pipeline Project.

Shortage of housing

1932. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state: